



Press Release

National Labor Relations Board

NLRB Earns An “A” in the 2008 Ombudsman’s Report to Congress

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Washington, DC -- For the 6th year in a row, the National Labor Relations Board has been awarded an overall rating of “A” by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of the National Ombudsman (ONO) in its 2008 Report to Congress. The ONO was created by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA). The law’s provisions pertain to all small businesses that receive or are subject to any enforcement-related communication or contact by the Federal government, including audits, on-site inspections, and agency compliance assistance.

The National Ombudsman's primary mission is to assist small businesses when they experience excessive or unfair federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation or other unfair enforcement action by a federal agency. Each year the ONO rates Federal agencies on a variety of elements relating to their treatment of small businesses. The full ONO Report for 2008 is available on the Internet at the following link: (web link).

Each year, the ONO appraises agency responses to small business by assigning a rating of “A” through “F” in six performance areas:

- Timeliness of response
- Quality of response
- Agency non-retaliation policy
- Agency regulatory enforcement compliance assistance
- SBREFA notice
- Agency participation in RegFair hearings, at which individuals and small business owners can voice their concerns about Federal agency enforcement actions

The NLRB again received “A” ratings in all applicable rating elements.

In a joint statement, NLRB Chairman Wilma Liebman and General Counsel Ronald Meisburg said, “The NLRB is committed to enforcing the National Labor Relations Act in a consistent, fair and transparent manner. It is gratifying that the SBA’s Office of the National Ombudsman has again recognized our efforts to be open and accessible to the small business community. The dedicated employees of the NLRB will continue to be responsive to that community, to employers generally and to the employees and labor organizations who are involved in our cases.”

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1935 to administer the [National Labor Relations Act](#), the primary law governing relations between unions and employers in the private sector. The statute guarantees the right of employees to organize and to bargain collectively with their employers, and to engage in other protected concerted activity with or without a union, or to refrain from all such activity.

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